

SAFEGUARD YOUR UNIONS AGAINST DISRUPTION!

An Appeal to All Trade Unionists

A NEW danger is hanging over the trade unions. Completely lost to all sense of responsibility and class solidarity, the official Communist Party has issued the monstrous slogan: "Drive the 'Lovestoneites' out of the labor movement!" They have even made it part of the oath prescribed for new members of the party. In their press and in their declarations, they repeat the same contemptible threat on every occasion.

What does this new Stalinist slogan mean for the labor movement? It means that the official Communist leaders, in response to orders from their superiors in Moscow, are preparing to launch a new campaign of disruption in the trade unions. It means that, in order to get at their political opponents—the "Lovestoneites," the Left socialists or the Trotskyites—they are ready to create dissension and provoke conflicts and confusion among the workers. It means that they have not the slightest scruple in sacrificing the deepest interests of labor for the sake of their own narrow, factional ends. It means that the Stalinist leadership has lost every trace of loyalty to the labor movement and to the working class!

A RECORD OF DISRUPTION

And who are these high-and-mighty powers that have the colossal impudence to arrogate to themselves the right to pre-

scribe for the labor movement who shall and who shall not be part of it—on the basis of whether you do or do not agree with their policies and practices? What is their record in the labor movement entitling them to set themselves up as supreme judges to decide who should be "driven out"?

They are the same people who, from 1929 to 1934, did everything in their power systematically to undermine and destroy the existing unions and to replace them by dualistic paper-organizations of their own.

They are the same people who branded the United Mine Workers, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and all other legitimate labor organizations that they could not control, as "company unions," as "fascist" or "social-fascist" outfits. They are the same people who heaped the filthiest sort of abuse upon John L. Lewis, David Dubinsky, Sidney Hillman and other trade-union leaders.

They are the same people who openly preached and practised the policy of union-smashing laid down for them by Losovsky, the head of the Red International of Labor Unions, in the following words:

"That we want to break up the reformist (i.e., non-Stalinist) unions, that we want to weaken them, that we want to disrupt their discipline, that we want

READ THE WORKERS AGE

FOR A PROGRESSIVE LABOR MOVEMENT — JOIN !

to break up and destroy the trade-union apparatus—of that there cannot be the slightest doubt" (R.I.L.U. Magazine, Feb. 1932).

They are the same people who did not shrink even from strike-breaking and scabbing in their mad crusade of destruction against the existing trade-union movement.

They are the same people who stood behind the notorious Trade Union Unity League, that became such a stench in the nostrils of all decent workers.

They are the same people who, for years, bitterly opposed a labor party as an "agency of American imperialism" and then, later on, sponsored the idea of a "labor party from below" to be used against the trade-union movement and the trade-union leaders.

They are the same people whose shameless hooliganism disrupted the great Madison Square Garden meeting called by the trade unions in February 1934 to express our solidarity with the heroic Austrian working men fighting against fascism.

THE MASK OF "LOYALTY"

In 1934, these American Stalinist leaders were suddenly ordered from above to make a right-about-face in their party policy. Overnight, they began dripping sugary phrases of "loyalty" and "devotion" to the labor movement. In contrast to their former sectarianism, they now became so "broad" as to embrace every reactionary and disreputable element in their trade-union and labor-party combinations. When the C.I.O. was born, their new-baked "loyalty" to the interests of labor did not prevent them from taking a very sceptical attitude towards it, from issuing the utterly reaction-

ary slogan of "a powerful united A. F. of L." or from hampering and obstructing the C.I.O. movement on many fields. Here, too, they suffered a last-minute change of heart and now they try to pass themselves off as the sponsors and champions, in fact, the inventors, of the C.I.O.—not without serious damage to the industrial-union movement. Indeed, to a very large extent, the difficulties in which the C.I.O. finds itself today in a number of situations, are to be traced directly to the criminal irresponsibility of the Stalinites and their allies.

But, amidst all of these sudden and unexplained turns and twists, they have never wavered in one thing: in the promotion of their own narrow, factional aims without regard to the interests of labor as a whole—in their reckless, unprincipled demagoguery with absolutely no consideration for the consequences. To them, the interests of labor mean nothing; they neither understand them nor care anything about them in comparison with their own petty, partisan ends. That is why they have left such an unsavory reputation for criminal irresponsibility and charlatanism wherever they have shown themselves in the labor movement.

RECORD OF THE "LOVESTONEITES"

And whom do these people propose to "drive out"? The "Lovestoneites"! Our record is an open book, well-known to the labor movement. While the Stalinites were busy splitting unions and breaking strikes, we were conducting an uphill fight to strengthen the trade-union movement thru a spirit of progressivism and militancy at a time when stagnation and apathy reigned everywhere. We fought dualism and union-smashing and fought it to a finish. From

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THE INDEPENDENT COMMUNIST LABOR LEAGUE

the very beginning we aligned ourselves with the C.I.O. and the new labor movement arising under its banner, sparing no effort at constructive activity in every field of labor struggle. We have every right to be proud of the splendid work our members have done in the auto workers union, in the I.L.G.W.U., in the rubber, textile, coal, steel and other trade-union organizations. Our record speaks for itself and we confidently refer to the members and officers of any union in which our people are to be found for a certificate of constructive activity. Can those who propose to "drive us out" do the same?

We have our differences with the leaders of the official Communist Party, sharp differences on practically every question arising in the course of the labor struggle. We regard their general policy on American and world issues as false and reactionary. We regard their trade-union policies and practises as positively dangerous to the best interests of labor. But we do not, on that account, raise the slogan of "driving" them out of the labor movement; we do not on that account, call them "fascists." We do not regard ourselves as endowed with the right or the power to legislate for the whole labor movement or to decide who shall and who shall not belong to it. In the labor movement, there is room for workers of all sorts of political views and all sorts of opinions as to how the interests of labor may best be served. Thru free discussion and democratic procedure, the rank and file will themselves decide which policies they approve and which type of leadership they prefer. We, on our part have the utmost confidence in the experience and common-sense of the workers!

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

For the masses in the trade unions, it is therefore, not a question of whether they agree or disagree with us on this or that point, on this or that issue. It is a question of whether they are going to let the Stalinites make their political differences with us the occasion for disrupting and weakening those unions in which they may find themselves. It is a question of whether they are going to permit the official Communist Party to create turmoil and dissension in their ranks while prating about "unity," as in the old dual unionist days. It is a question we must all face!

We regard the empty threats and hysterical denunciations of the Stalinites with the contempt they deserve. They do not scare us one bit. But we are concerned for the welfare of the trade-union movement. The mad crusade of the Stalinites, while it cannot hurt us very much, can do serious damage to the labor movement by creating dissension and strife in its ranks precisely at the time when, because of increasingly difficult economic conditions, the workers need unity more than ever before. This must not be permitted to occur!

Trade unionists! Safeguard your unions against the Stalinist disrupters! Don't let them undermine the power and unity of your organizations by launching a campaign of extermination against some of the most loyal, devoted and constructive elements in the labor movement just because they don't happen to agree with us politically! Show the Stalinites that you don't intend to let them start their union-smashing all over again!

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